basis or asked to take study leave to work in the voluntary sector;

(c) whether it is *also* a fact that promotions of IAS officers at the district level are being linked to their 'involvement in the developmental work at the village level; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There is no proposal as such for deputing IAS officers to work in voluntary agencies or requiring them to take study leave to work in the voluntary sector connected with rural development. However, under the Service rules, an IAS officer may be deputed, if he is willing, for service under an autonomous body not controlled by Government in consultation with the State Government on whose cadre he is borne. He may also be granted study leave for carrying out studies in approved voluntary agencies connected with rural development.

(c) and (d) Promotions of IAS Officers and posting in districts are made by State Governments concerned on the basis of their experience & performance in the assignments in which thev are depoloyed which may include development work at village level.

'China raises Arunachal issue again' a news item

2347. SHRI F. M, KHAN:

SHRIMATl RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI (B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 11th February, 1988 under the caption 'China raises Arunachal issue again';

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any protest ha,3 been lodged with the Chinese authorities, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AF. FAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The news item appears to be based on a report carried by the Chinese news agency Xnihua bf February ll, 1988, on some remarks made by the Spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Office on the 10th February. The Spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Office said, amongst other things, that China would never recognise either the "illegal McMo-hom Line" or the "so-called Arunachal Pradesh". The Spokesperson also said that China did not constitute a threat to India.

(c) Government have consistently held that the customary, traditional boundary between India and China in the Eastern Sector has been fur-their formalised by the McMahon Line. Our policy of maintaining peace and tranquility along the border and of seeking the settlement of all issues through peaceful negotiations has been stated on several occasions and was reiterated as recently as the 11th February by our official Spokesman. Government have rejected the Chinese objection to the grant of statehood to Arunachal Pradesh, since Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of the Indian Union. Government's, position is well known to the Chinese Government.